

Star Sport

DHAKA TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-119

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 19, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1 Who are the current FA Cup champions?
Man United | Arsenal | Liverpool

2 Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?
Whatmoe | Yardley | Fernandez

3 Who won the Confederations' Cup title?
Brazil | Mexico | USA

4 Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?
Moinul | Akram | Aminul

5 Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?
Yokohama | Suzuki | Nagoya

Name

.....

Class Roll No.

School Address

.....

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Rahul Dravid

(Indian cricketer)
"I do not have words to describe my feelings."

After being named the Arjuna Award winner.

Mohali can't afford the Test?

CHANDIGARH, Sept 6: Uncertainty hung over Mohali being the venue of the first cricket Test match between India and New Zealand next month as the organisers Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) yesterday decided that it would not be economically viable to host the event there, reports PTI.

The PCA, at its executive committee meeting here, decided that it might forgo the Test, scheduled to be held from October 10-14, or shift the venue to Chandigarh in case tickets for that match was not exempted from entertainment tax by the state government, a PCA spokesman said.

The state government has not renewed the notification exempting entertainment tax on international cricket matches which expired in 1995, the spokesman said.

Ctg kishore football from today

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: Seraj Mahanagar kishore football competition will begin at the Dampara Police Lines ground here on September 7, reports BSS.

Ten teams dividing into two groups are participating in the competition being held under the auspices of Chittagong Mahanagar Sports Association (CMSA).

The teams are: Group 'A': Blue Star, Eden Star, Agrabad Pioneers, Amra Tarun and Hazi Para Kriya Sangha.

Group 'B': Jharnarpur Club, Pahartali Club, Aloran, Ullash and Shapla Sangha.

The defending champions Blue Star will take Amra Tarun Club at the inaugural match.

A budget of over taka one lakh has been allocated for the competition, CMSA sources said.

The champion and the runners-up will receive cash award of taka five thousands and taka three thousands respectively. The best player-of-the-final and the highest scorer will also be awarded.



The Ghanaian footballers relaxing in Sheraton hotel balcony.

—Star photo

Football fiesta final today

Sports Reporter

The 2nd Bangabandhu Cup International Football Tournament awaits a befitting finish with the Ghana Olympic team and the combined Football League selection of Japan locking horns in the final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

The showdown, which will mark the end of a 12-day football fiesta involving twelve teams from across the world, will kick off at 5pm.

A colourful closing ceremony at 4.15 pm will precede the game. Bangladeshi Rifles will present a callisthenic spectacle.

Bangladesh Television will cover the inter-continental clash live from the big bowl, while Bangladesh Betar will air running commentary of what promises to be a fierce contest between the two richly-deserving finalists.

The winners will be richer by Taka 3 lakh while the runners-up will receive a lakh less. Besides, the man-of-the-final will win 500 US\$ and the man-of-the-tournament and the highest scorer 2000 US\$ each.

Ghana's Italian coach Giuseppe Dossena said that his team has a "fifty-fifty chance". His spirited boys will certainly walk into the final as favourites against the never-say-die semi-professional Japanese side.

Tipped as one of the tournament favourites, the youthful Africans stormed into the final with a 2-1 victory over Hungary's Kerulet FC in the first semi-final on Sunday. On the other hand, the Japanese needed a "golden goal" from their golden boy Taku Watanabe to squeak past arch rivals South Korea in a keenly-contested second semi-final the same day.

Although both sides got some rest to recuperate after an

energy-sapping business-only a day ago, they are ready to face the final challenge for ultimate glory. Ghana underwent an extensive training session yesterday morning and the Japanese chose light practice in preparation for today's final. And, on their return from the practice session, both the coaches said that they were inclined not to distract their respective winning combination.

"We are likely to retain the same team that played in the semi-final", said the Ghanaian coach Dossena while talking to the reporters at the Sheraton Hotel, the temporary abode for all the participating teams.

"It's true that the players are



tired but they are ready to play", said Dossena, who looked a satisfied man by the way things have gone so far.

I'm happy with the performance of the boys. Some might still be below par but you can expect everyone to play up to their potential on a given day", said Dossena.

Dossena has reasons to be elated because of the enterprising brand of soccer the Ghanaian team has so far produced in their last two games. The physically strong Ghanaian players, who enthralled the Dhaka crowd with their flowing at-

tacking football, may have won the semi-final by the barest of margins, but they deserved a more resounding win against Hungary's Kerulet FC.

"We got more chances than we have scored. But then you will have to admit the simple fact that it's the win which counts at the end of the day", said the Italian.

"But this is a crunch game and the Japanese will be the toughest opponents to beat", rounded off the soft-spoken Ghanaian coach.

While Dossena expressed guarded optimism his Japanese counterpart Shinji Tanaka termed the Ghanalans as "the most dangerous team".

Talking to the reporters with the aid of an interpreter, Tanaka rated his opponents as a highly skilled side.

They are physically strong and are capable of moving with menacing pace. But it does not matter, as we are ready to give our hundred percent", said Tanaka.

"We have some minor injuries in the team, but I'm more concerned about the time that we have got to recharge the wearing team", said Tanaka. That explained Japan's light practice session.

The Japanese coach however said that the date with Ghana has given his team a unique opportunity to have the taste of a different ball game.

"We really wanted to play Ghana because their style is different from Asian football. It will also be a good experience for us", said the Japanese coach.

While elaborating his game plan the Japanese coach said: "The Ghanalans love to move freely. All we have to do is to upset their rhythm and then rely on our experience forward to make the most from fast counter attacks".

Sports observers now believe that at least one party -- either Niaz Rahim or the Selection Committee -- is misrepresenting the facts. The NSC and the BOA should look into the matter immediately.

BCB fills six for Barlow's trial match

Sports Reporter

The first trial match, a three-day affair, of the national cricket team will start at the BKBSP on Thursday. But with only 17 cricketers now attending the residential camp at the country's lone sports institute in Savar, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is contemplating to call at least six more players as fillers.

The BCB called up 38 cricketers to prepare the national team for a series of international matches against the touring West Indies, who are scheduled to arrive in the city on October 1, and the visiting English A side later. But the newly-appointed South African coach Eddie Barlow never got the full selection together for a single day.

With several top-notch cricketers, including skipper Aminul Islam, skipping training to meet their commitment in the US minor league, the camp started with 25 players. But the Barlow camp got deserted look when Brothers Union yesterday carried with them as many as ten players to play in an invitational tournament in India.

"We have decided to call six players as fillers so that we can start the match", said chief selector Tanvir Haider yesterday. Tanvir however said that the camp would start in full swing on September 10.

Anamika falls victim to fraud?

Sports Reporter

It appears that karateka Anamika Hoque is a victim of a cruel round being played by the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation. The champion athlete for the last six years was ousted from the SAF camp where she had been training from February, that is the very beginning of the preparations for the regional games. In her place, another non-entity woman, who has never won gold in Bangladesh, has been selected.

According to reports five members of the Selection Committee had said in a written statement that they did select Anamika for this month's SAF Games in Nepal. Earlier the J&K Federation general secretary Niaz Rahim said in a letter to Anamika on September 1 that the Selection Committee had deselected her.

It would be very unfortunate if a medal prospect finds herself caught in the dirty milieu that seems to have been the cause of the regression of Bangladesh sports.

Sports observers now believe that at least one party -- either Niaz Rahim or the Selection Committee -- is misrepresenting the facts. The NSC and the BOA should look into the matter immediately.



Members of the Japanese squad jog in Rama Park yesterday.—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Hockey star Rabi slips into coma

Sports Reporter

Kanti Barua at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital.

Rabi sustained the injury after the back of his head struck the concrete floor of the basketball court.

His condition remained critical for the last eight days at the ICU before the attending doctors declared him "clinically dead" yesterday and put him under an artificial respiratory system.

Well-wishers, including some doctors of the sports arena, blamed "negligence" on the part of the attending surgeons for mistreating Rabindra.

Rabi was under close observation of Prof. Afzal till our filing of this report last night.

It may be mentioned that Rabi, who had been playing for Abahani in the local hockey league for the last couple of seasons, was initially called to the primary camp of the national team a few days back. But the dark defender opted to appear in the B-PED exam under the Physical Training Institute this year and did not join the camp.

A job at the Dhaka University as Physical Instructor was almost ensured for Rabi if he could have passed the exam. Rabi married a year back.

Tendulkar returns to challenge Lara

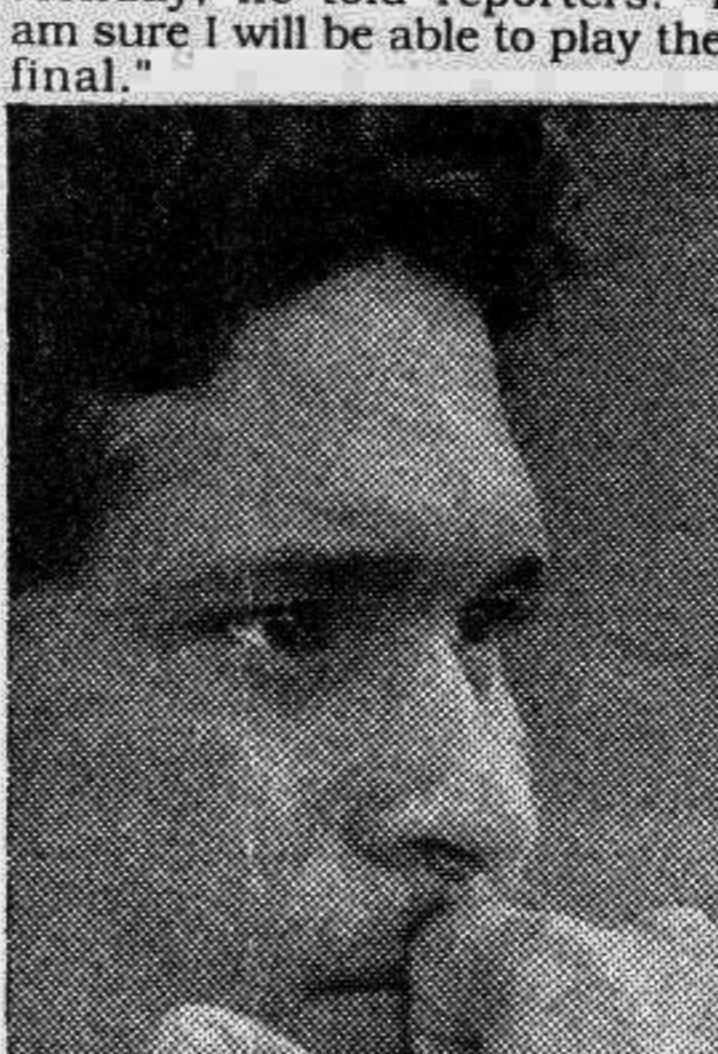
Stage set for final showdown



SINGAPORE, Sept 6 (AFP): Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar confirmed Monday he would lead his side in Tuesday's final against the West Indies in the Singapore International Challenge cricket tournament.

Tendulkar rested himself for Sunday's round-robin game against the same opponents.

But after a practice session Monday, he told reporters: "I am sure I will be able to play the final."



SACHIN TENDULKAR

Also coming back into the side will be paceman Venkatesh Prasad and leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who were also rested for the Sunday game.

Ajay Jadeja is ruled out because of a calf injury he suffered while batting against Zimbabwe.

Making way for the three in the side that took the field under the captaincy of Saurav Ganguly are likely to be opener Sadagopan Ramesh, young paceman Laxmi Ratan Shukla, who has a sore ankle, and left-hand batsman Amey Khurasia.

The West Indians too will be at full strength, Courtney Walsh having been rested for the Sunday game.

The real battle is expected to be between the rival captains Tendulkar and Brian Lara.

It has been a batsman's tournament so far and the final should be no exception. The pitch has played hard and true, with little assistance for the bowlers.

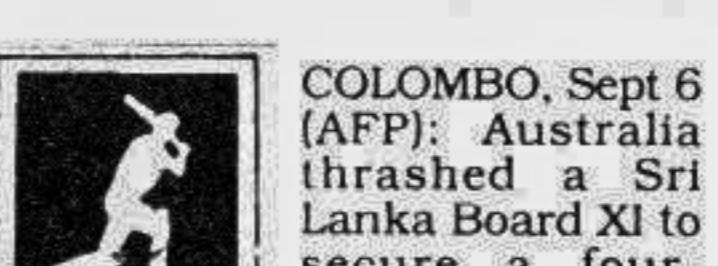
Weather, however, could be a dampener. The previous two matches in the tournament had to be reduced to 30 overs a side from 50 following heavy early morning showers.

SQUADS
INDIA (From): Brian Lara (Captain), Ridley Jacobs, Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Jimmy Adams, Ricardo Powell, Nehemiah Perry, Hendy Brian, Marvyn Dillon, Reon King, Courtney Walsh, Nixon McLean, Wevel Hinds, Adrian Griffith.

WEST INDIES (From): Brian Lara (Captain), Ridley Jacobs, Sherwin Campbell, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Jimmy Adams, Ricardo Powell, Nehemiah Perry, Hendy Brian, Marvyn Dillon, Reon King, Courtney Walsh, Nixon McLean, Wevel Hinds, Adrian Griffith.

BRIAN LARA
BRIAN LARA

Blown away by Blewett

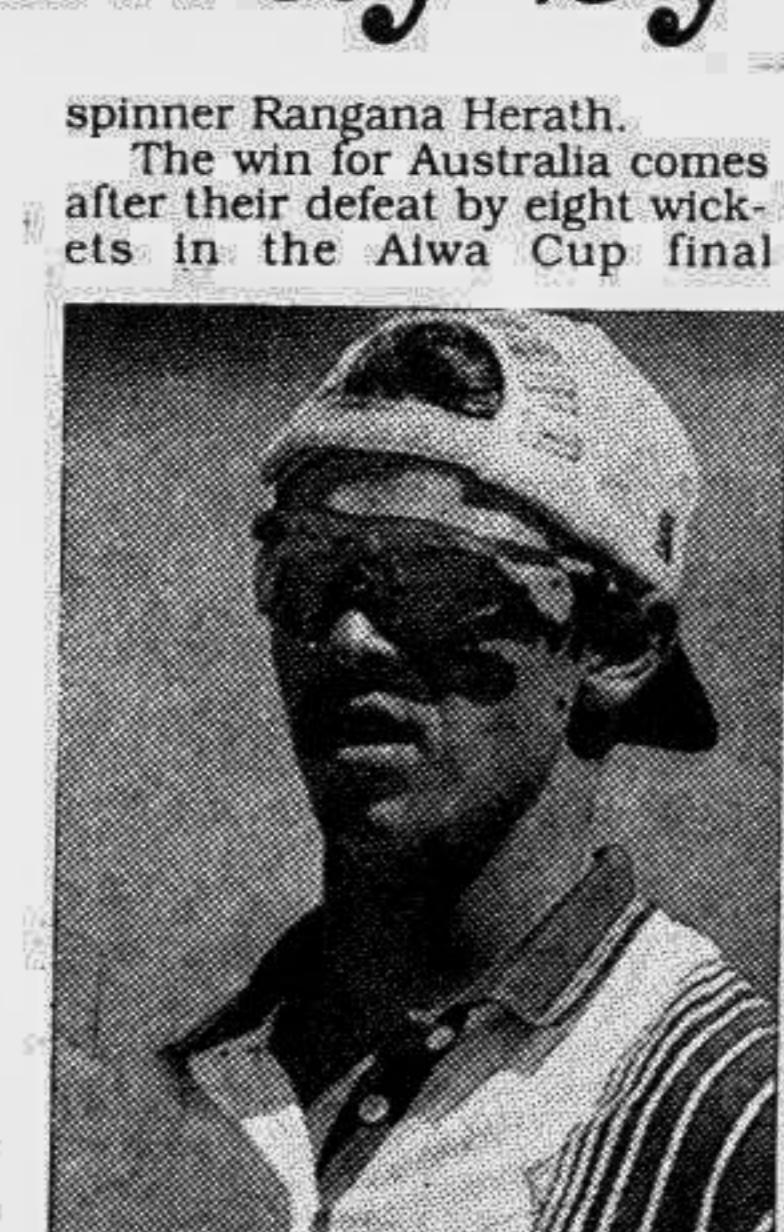


COLOMBO, Sept 6 (AFP): Australia thrashed a Sri Lanka Board XI to secure a four-wicket win Monday by overcoming a formidable 321 target ahead of their first Test in the central town of Kandy.

Australian opener Greg Blewett stroked an impressive century as Australia took the challenge in the fourth innings and finished the match off shortly before tea on the fourth and final day at the Saranamuttu Stadium.

Blewett struck 20 fours in a superb display of batting for 248 minutes, scoring 148.

He faced 278 balls and the nearest he came to being dismissed was at 67 when captain Hasan Tillekeratne attempted to convert a difficult chance into a catch at short leg off leg.



COLOMBO, Sept 6 (AFP): The win for Australia comes after their defeat by eight wickets in the Awa Cup final.

After Slater went edging a catch to De Saram at slip off left-arm spinner Ranga Herath for 51, Blewett and Justin Langer put together a further stand of 134 for the second wicket.

Langer was missed at one when Russell Arnold failed to hold onto an easy return catch, and made use of the miss to score a half-century.

Blewett's innings was terminated with the score at 249, when De Saram pulled off a great one-handed catch at mid-on as he lofted Indika Gallage.

The Board XI pulled back after Blewett's dismissal, grab-

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Wasim may be kept waiting

KARACHI, Sept 6 (Internet report): Wasim Akram's return to the Toronto tour party of Pakistan the balance of selectors reportedly prefers to go slow about making any decision.

The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) ad hoc committee has been advised by his close associates against lifting the suspension on Wasim immediately and making him available for selection for matches against the West Indies in Canada.

Wasim, former captain

Salim Malik and batsman Ijaz Ahmed have been banned by Pakistan cricket authorities from playing for their country until the probe is over.

The News daily reported that Mujeeb Rehman held discussions with his close aides, including adviser and chief selector Colonel (retd) Naushad Ali, member of the ad hoc committee Javed Zamani and Pakistan manager Yawar Saeed, and they all felt the PCB should not rush into lifting the ban on Wasim to allow him to play in Toronto.

It is understood that Naushad and Yawar have advised Mujeeb that it would be better if the PCB waited for just

the Commission is due to

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to conclude its